

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (previously presented): An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data, wherein said developing step includes first and second modes, wherein, in the first mode the input image data is developed a number of times equal to the number of color image output apparatus, using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein, in the second mode, the input image data is developed using an optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained in said developing step to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

2. (original): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the optional color processing condition is a color processing condition corresponding to one of the plurality of color image output apparatus.

3. (original): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the optional color processing condition is a color processing condition corresponding to a combination of the plurality of color image output apparatus.

4. (original): An image processing method according to claim 3, wherein the optional color processing condition is average values of color processing conditions corresponding to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

5. (original): An image processing method according to claim 3, further comprising a distributing process of distributing the input job to the plurality of color image output apparatus, wherein the optional color processing condition is determined by performing a weighing process of the color processing condition corresponding to each of the color image output apparatus in accordance with a distribution condition of said distributing process.

6. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, comprising:

means for developing input image data into bit map image data; and

selecting means for selecting either a first mode or a second mode in said means for developing,

wherein, in the first mode, the input image data is developed a number of times equal to the number of color image output apparatus, by using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein, in the second mode, the input image data is developed by using an optional color processing condition, and in both modes a result obtained by said means for developing is output to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

7. (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for realizing an image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, the program comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data, said developing step including selectively developing in either a first mode or a second mode,

wherein, in the first mode, the input image data is developed a plurality of times equal to the number of color image output apparatus, by using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein, in the second mode, the input image data is developed by using an optional color processing condition, and in both modes a result obtained in said developing step is output to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

8. (previously presented): An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color-image output apparatus, comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus; and

a converting step of converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus developed in said developing step is transferred to the first color-image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color-image output apparatus converted in said converting step is transferred to the second color-image output apparatus.

9. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of color-image output apparatus are of the same type, and said developing step includes performing a color matching process by using profiles corresponding to the type of the plurality of color-image output apparatus, and wherein said converting step includes performing a conversion matching gradation characteristics of the first and second color-image output apparatus.

10. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein the gradation characteristics of the first color-image output apparatus are calibrated by a calibration process.

11. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said developing step includes performing a color adjustment process corresponding to the first color-image output apparatus and a gradation correction process matching the first color-image output apparatus.

12. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color-image output apparatus, comprising:

developing means for developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus; and

converting means for converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus developed by said developing means is transferred to the first color-image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color-image output apparatus converted by said converting means step is transferred to the second color-image output apparatus.

13. (previously presented): A storage medium storing a program for realizing an image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color_image output apparatus, the program comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus; and

a converting step of converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus developed by said developing function is transferred to the first color-image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color-image output apparatus converted in said converting step is transferred to the second color-image output apparatus.

14. (new): An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data,

wherein said developing step includes processing selected from the group consisting of:

processing A, in which said developing includes first and second modes, wherein, in the first mode the input image data is developed a number of times equal to the number of color image output apparatus, using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein, in the second mode, the input image data is developed using an optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained in said developing step to the plurality of color image output apparatus, and

processing B, which includes developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus and converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus, wherein the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus is transferred to the first color-image output apparatus and wherein the bit map image data for the second color-image output apparatus is transferred to the second color-image output apparatus.